

School has a roaring success with Lion King



Burscough Village Primary School (BVPS) pupils wowed audiences in July with their vibrant production of Disney's The Lion King JR, performed to four sell-out audiences over three days.

A total of 112 children took part, with Year 6 leading the show and taking on the principal roles. They were brilliantly supported by the school dance team and choir, who helped bring energy, movement and atmosphere to each performance.

Monday's performance was a special Community Showcase, attended by representatives from Burscough Town Council, Year 7 alumni, care home residents, governors, the school advisor, volunteers and community helpers. Three further performances each welcomed a sell-out audience of around 100 people.



The production was directed by Miss Waring-Collins, Year 6 teacher, with choreography led by Miss Lawrence, Year 5 teacher. Props and costumes were created by the Year 6 class, with much-

Hundreds of people attended shows at Burscough Village Primary School in July to see a performance of Disney's The Lion King Jr.

appreciated support from parents and grandparents.

Mrs Yates, Headteacher, said: "Our school productions have become a very special part of life at Burscough Village Primary School. Each year, the children amaze us with their talent, confidence and commitment. Disney's The Lion King JR. was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to shine, work together and create memories that will stay with them long after they leave primary school."

The school is incredibly proud of everyone involved in this colourful and uplifting production, which reflects the talent, teamwork and community spirit at the heart of BVPS.

Vikki Newsome, Business Manager, Burscough Village Primary School





From the Mayor's Desk

With the recent election period now concluded, Burscough Town Council is pleased to welcome newly elected Cllr Alison Jones, who will represent Richmond Park Ward. I am

also delighted to confirm the re-election of Cllr Mike Price, who will continue his outstanding work on behalf of residents in New Lane Ward. All other BTC councillors were re-elected unopposed, reflecting the continued confidence and support of the local community.

My sincere thanks go to my fellow councillors for re-electing me as Mayor for a second term at the Town Council's Annual Meeting in May. It is a great honour and privilege to continue serving in this role, and I remain fully committed to working diligently on behalf of the residents of Burscough throughout the coming year.

Residents of Burscough can be assured that your Town Council remains fully committed to serving the needs of our local community. If there is an issue you would like to discuss, please contact your local Ward Councillor, whose details can be found on the back of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can contact the Town Council Office by email at: admin@burscoughtc.org.uk or by telephone on 01704 894914.

Residents who wish to raise a planning matter are welcome to attend and speak at our **Planning Committee meetings**, which are usually held on the **first Wednesday of each month**. BTC holds regular Council meetings on the **third Wednesday of each month** at the Interchange Building. Meeting agendas are published in advance on the Town Council's website and notice boards. Residents are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to raise matters of concern during the dedicated public participation agenda item.

If you have a personal or local matter you would like to discuss with the police, regular police surgeries are held at the Burscough Town Council offices, usually twice each month, with one afternoon session and one evening session. Details of

upcoming surgeries are advertised well in advance on the **Burscough Town Council website at: burscoughtc.co.uk**.

The Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank **Crompton Property Developments Limited**, for their community-spirited generosity in providing the concrete bases and installing the three new Town Council benches on the green space at Chancel Way. Their valued support has helped enhance this area for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

As in previous years, it was BTC's intention to install Floral Barrier Baskets on the pedestrian guard rails through the village from Orrell Lane through to Station Approach in order to enhance the appearance of this prominent route. However, **LCC refused to approve** the proposal, citing concerns that the Barrier Baskets were within the allowed 450mm from the main highway, and could create a distraction for motorists and other road users. BTC councillors were naturally disappointed with this decision.

We know it's still summer, and we hope everyone is making the most of the warmer weather while it lasts. However, it's never too early to start looking forward to Christmas! With the festive season in mind, the Town Council is delighted to announce a brand-new Residents' Christmas Display Competition. Whether you enjoy decorating the front of your house with a few festive touches or creating a spectacular garden seasonal display, we'd love to see as many residents as possible take part and help fill our town with festive cheer this Christmas. Whether your display is simple and elegant or bright and spectacular, every entry will help create a wonderful seasonal atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. Turn to the inside pages to find out how to enter our **Illuminate Your Garden This Christmas** competition and join in the festive fun!

We hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of the Burscough Town Council newsletter and find it both informative and engaging. Thank you for taking the time to keep up to date with what's happening in our community.

*Cllr Derick Moss
Mayor – Burscough Town Council*



Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

West Lancashire Stammtisch welcomes German speakers and learners of all levels.

Have you ever wanted more opportunities to speak German? Whether you're learning with Duolingo, studying formally, returning to the language after many years, or you're a native speaker, West Lancashire Stammtisch offers a friendly and welcoming place to practise your German conversation skills.

A Stammtisch is a traditional social gathering where people meet regularly to chat, and that's exactly what we do. Once a month, we come together for tea, coffee and conversation, creating a relaxed environment where everyone can build

confidence in speaking German.

Our group includes beginners, intermediate speakers, advanced learners, native speakers, and people who are rediscovering the language after a long break. While we are not a German class and do not formally teach the language, members are always happy to help one another with vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation when needed.

Many people find speaking to be the most challenging part of learning a language. West Lancashire Stammtisch provides a supportive space to practise without pressure. If you're feeling nervous, that's not a problem; you are welcome to come along simply to listen at first and join in

whenever you feel comfortable.

We ask for £5 per person towards room hire, which includes tea and quality coffee—just as Germans would expect!

The group meets on the third Saturday of every month from 2.00pm to 4.30pm at The Interchange Building, Station Approach, Burscough.

For further information, please contact Cllr Swin Purple on 07344 110941 or at cllrpurple@gmail.com.

Whether you're preparing for a trip, maintaining your language skills, or simply enjoying German conversation, we'd be delighted to welcome you to West Lancashire Stammtisch.



NEW FOR CHRISTMAS 2026

Burscough Town Council's

Festive Display Competition

Exclusively for Residents of Burscough

Burscough Town Council is delighted to launch a brand-new community competition celebrating the creativity and festive spirit of local residents.

*Illuminate Your Front Garden
This Christmas!*

**10 Prizes to be Won –
Total Prize Fund of £675**

1	1st Prize:	£300
2	2nd Prize:	£130
3	3rd Prize:	£70
	7 Outstanding Effort Awards:	£25 shopping vouchers each

★ PLEASE NOTE

Judging will focus on creativity, imagination and effort, rather than the size or cost of the display.

i FURTHER INFORMATION

Please turn over for details of eligibility and the judging criteria. →

BURSCOUGH
TOWN COUNCIL

Eligible Displays

The competition is open to the following types of festive lighting displays:

- Front Gardens
- Balconies
- Window Displays (for residents who do not have a front garden)

How to Enter

Residents wishing to take part are invited to submit one colour photograph of their display, together with their name, address, email address and telephone number.

Entries may be submitted either by email or by post to Burscough Town Council, as detailed below.

Email: admin@burscoughtc.org.uk Address: Interchange Building, Station Approach, Burscough, L40 0RZ

Please ensure that the photograph is of sufficient quality to allow the judges to fully appreciate the display.

Judging Criteria

- Judging will be undertaken by members of the Town Council's Street Scene Working Group.

Entries will be assessed against the following criteria:

Theme, Creativity, Originality, Overall visual appeal, Effort and imagination (rather than expenditure or scale)

- The ten most imaginative displays, based on the photographs submitted, will be shortlisted for an in-person visit by the judging panel.
- Photographs submitted must be of sufficient quality to enable the judging panel to assess the display accurately.
- By entering the competition, participants consent to photographs of their displays being used by Burscough Town Council for promotional purposes, including on social media, community websites, posters and newsletters.

Photographs must be submitted no later than midnight on Sunday, 6 December.

- Winners will be notified week commencing 14th December 2026.
- The decision of Burscough Town Council is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

OPSTA and Edge Hill University Travel Survey

As a longstanding transport user group OPSTA uses an evidence based approach in our work with Burscough Town Council, the MP for West Lancashire, our local authorities, the rail industry and other transport groups, it is what underpins our campaigns and is why we conduct passenger counts and surveys in order to demonstrate demand for services, travel need and patterns.

To understand and represent traveller requirements fully and accurately means we have to engage with as many as possible, and to achieve this OPSTA and the Business School at Edge Hill have worked together to develop an easily completed online survey.

Now we would like to hear from Burscough residents about their most important journey(s) using all means of transport.

Please consider taking part in our very quick survey irrespective of where and how you travel – if it matters to you then it matters. The more wide ranging data we can obtain the stronger the cases for better transport become.

Ormskirk, Preston & Southport Travellers' Association working with Edge Hill University

GOT A MINUTE?

What is your A to B?
How is your journey?

Scan code to access survey or go to website www.opsta.org/survey

Survey purpose - to capture travel need and experiences
Your input will evidence cases for transport improvement

opstasurveys@gmail.com [opsta81 on Bluesky](#) OPSTA



Burscough hosts its first Armed Forces Day Community Fun Day – over 1,000 attended



Burscough made local history on Saturday 27th June as more than 1,000 people attended the village's first ever **Armed Forces Community Fun Day**, held at Burscough Football Club in partnership with the **Lathom & Burscough Veteran Support hub**.

Armed Forces Day is a national event celebrating the dedication and sacrifice of everyone who has served in the military, both currently serving and veterans. Military charities including the **Royal British Legion**, **SSAFA** (Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association) and the **Army Benevolent Fund** support

veterans from their late teens to centenarians, recognising that anyone who has served **even a single day** is entitled to full support.

The **Lathom & Burscough Veteran Support Hub** meets every second Saturday monthly at Burscough FC, providing a welcoming, service-orientated environment where veterans can connect, share experiences and support each other. This year we decided that it was time that Armed Forces Day was celebrated locally.

The event delivered a full and varied programme of activities including:

- A dynamic demonstration from **McKinstry Family Karate** started us off
- The wonderful **Hope and Joy Choir** followed on
- Performances from the **Pemberton Old Wigan Youth Band**
- The uplifting **Ormskirk Ukulele Group**
- And a **first ever public performance** by the fabulous local **Estrella School of Dance**, a local dance school based at Burscough Old Peoples' Club, ahead of their upcoming appearance at Disneyland.





Burscough FC added to the excitement with a lively **Under-6s football competition**, while other volunteers ran a hugely popular **Crossbar challenge** that drew attempts by both young and old!

The **Army Benevolent Fund** attracted crowds with their **paintball activity** stand and a **military-style shooting range**, open to all ages and fully supervised by experienced veterans throughout the day. The ABF also made a generous donation to the Lathom & Burscough Veteran Support Hub, supporting its ongoing work with local veterans.

Inflatables, an assault course and zorb football proved extremely popular until high winds forced an early closure for safety.

Emergency service personnel from **Lancashire Police** and **blood bike couriers** kept countless children (and older ones too!) entertained and informed with demonstrations and displays, inspiring many young visitors.

The event was made possible thanks to generous donations from:

- **Burscough Town Council**
- **Burscough Bifolds**
- **DMG Group**

Their contribution meant that most activities were **free of charge**, providing an accessible and enjoyable day out for families across the area. The **Veteran Support Hub** raised funds through a raffle and tombola, with additional donations made to the **Royal British Legion**. A separate raffle also raised funds to support the **Burscough FC SEN Team**. The winner of the framed Michael Owen shirt kindly donated it to a local community care home where it is now proudly displayed.

Good fun and we felt successful, so thank you to all of you who came along to join in.

Next year promises even more excitement, with **Southport announced as the host for national Armed Forces Day** commemorations, promising spectacular displays and a major regional celebration.

Photo credits: Morgan Hesketh Photography, Clair Ryer, Michelle Turner & John Horsley.





PETER LATHOM'S CHARITY

Historical research appears to show that Peter Lathom of Bispham was born in 1651, the son of William Lathom of Haigh, and died in October 1701 unmarried and with no apparent heirs. Of the present-day Charities for the county of Lancashire, one of the most widely operative, and to have retained its original identity, is that known after its founder as Peter Lathom's Charity.

Growing up during some of the most disturbed periods of English history he saw the confiscation of the Parbold, Wrightington and Allerton estates; he witnessed the extremes of poverty into which this confiscation had thrown the Lathom family and he saw some of them practically worthless both as to goods and lands, constantly harried by religious and civil strife.

Although little is known of the founder's life and much is shrouded in a degree of mystery, Peter Lathom's choice of Executors - 6 described as gentlemen and only two as 'husbandmen' appears testament to the fact that he had made his mark in society and amassed a considerable estate by the time of his death, represented in the main by land, no doubt acquired through shrewd investment of his profits.

The main thrust of Peter Lathom's Will was to direct his Executors to apply the rents and profits from land and premises which he owned at the date of his death situated inter alia in Mawdesley Bispham Lathom Burscough Wrightington and Parbold for the benefit of the poor in specified townships in West Lancashire. The current Scheme of the Charity specifies the areas of benefit as **Ulnes Walton, Eccleston, Newburgh, Lathom, Welch Whittle, Heskin, Wrightington, Dalton, Parbold, Bispham, Mawdesley, Skelmersdale, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Scarisbrick, Rufford, Croston and Burscough.**

Interestingly in a report of the Charity Commissioners of 1828 distributions to the poor, in accordance with the terms of Peter Lathom's will made between 1826 and 1827 were set out in some detail and include the distribution of linen "amongst such poor persons belonging to the Township as are considered proper objects and who have not received parochial relief within 12 months."

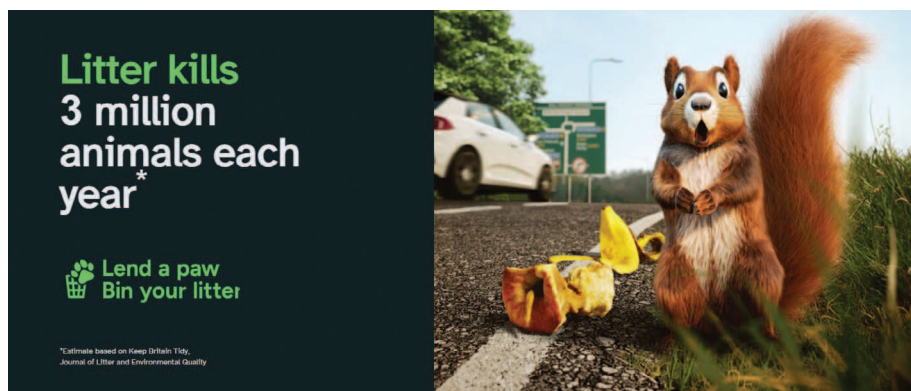
The discovery of coal under lands owned by the charity in Skelmersdale, in the late 1820s and into the 30s proved to be a milestone in the history of the charity. Leases were granted to two companies to

work the mines namely Crow Orchard Colliery and White Moss Colliery. The mines were successfully worked for many years until they became either unworkable or exhausted in value, toward the end of the 1890s, beginning of the 1900s. Revenue from the extraction of coal and in consequence the income of the Charity increased dramatically.

The work of the Charity continues to the present day; the current trustees endeavour to identify and provide assistance within the terms of the Scheme, to apply the Charity's income in relieving persons resident in their respective districts who are in need, hardship or distress. Yearly distributions also include benefits to schools and to individual pupils meeting the eligibility criteria under the Scheme.

Applications are invited at anytime throughout the year for consideration by the Trustees and should be directed, preferably by email to the Clerk:

Applications/General enquiries to be addressed to the Clerk to the Peter Lathom Charity c/o 71-73 Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PR or via email karen.thompson1624@gmail.com



Lend a paw

Litter is an ever-growing problem, not just nationally but within Burscough. Litter spoils how our village looks and causes a danger to our beautiful wildlife.

Burscough is lucky have our own voluntary group called the Burscough Litter Pickers. They litter pick throughout our village and help to keep it looking at its best. However, they can't do it on their own this problem needs the support of the whole community.

To support in keeping our village litter free, Burscough Town Council has provided grants to the Burscough Litter Pickers but we will also be supporting the National Highways Agency "Lend a Paw" campaign. This highlights the dangers of discarded litter and aims to raise awareness of this serious problem.

Please do get involved and help to raise awareness. If you'd like to do more and volunteer, please contact Burscough Litter Pickers!

Cllr Bob Wilson – Climate Working Group

One big thank you to the Burscough Treble Makers!

The Treble Makers are well known in Burscough for their excellent singing, dancing and all-round entertainment – if you haven't seen them, you've missed a real treat. They hosted an excellent fun-filled evening at the Stanley Club last month in aid of three local good causes – the Stanley Cinema, the Methodist Church Hall refurbishment and the Lathom and Burscough OPC.

Representatives from the Treble Makers kindly joined us at the OPC to present a cheque for £837, which we will use towards the much-needed refurbishment of our kitchen. We are very grateful for your help.





Moss Corner: A Growing Community Conservation Project

Burscough's newest conservation site has officially been given a name: **Moss Corner**.

Situated on the corner of Moss Lane and Back Moss Lane, the name reflects both the site's location and its connection to the surrounding landscape. Since acquiring the land, Burscough Town Council has begun transforming it into a valuable space for nature, wildlife and the community.

One of the most exciting developments has been the creation of **Friends of Moss Corner**, a volunteer group established by the Council's Climate Change Working Group to help care for the site for generations to come. Conservation projects are long-term by nature, and while councillors and committees may change over time, the site will continue to need dedicated local people to help it thrive. We are delighted that many residents who attended last year's tree-planting events have already come forward to get involved.

The volunteers have wasted no time getting started. Recent work parties have focused on maintaining the two micro-forests planted last October using the Miyawaki method. During their first year, these densely planted forests require



careful management to ensure young trees are not overwhelmed by vigorous weeds. Volunteers have been removing creeping thistle and other competing vegetation helping the saplings establish themselves successfully

The inaugural meeting of Friends of Moss Corner was held at The Interchange Building. Attendees were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor, Brian Kennedy, who thanked volunteers for their support and explained the background to the site and how it came into the Council's ownership, and thanked former Cllr Cynthia Direli for her work on the project. Ian Wright from Lancashire County Council's Treescapes programme then spoke about the Miyawaki micro-forests and the Climate Change Working Group provided updates on future plans. Both then answered questions and listened to ideas from volunteers.

There is plenty more to look forward to.

This autumn, the Council plans to plant a **traditional orchard** and create a **new wildlife pond**, adding further habitats for both wildlife and people to enjoy. Work is also planned to improve access to the site, including a pedestrian entrance from Back Moss Lane and a network of mown paths to make it easier for residents to explore Moss Corner and enjoy nature close to home.

Moss Corner is still in the early stages of its journey, but thanks to the enthusiasm of volunteers and the support of the community, it is already becoming a place where nature and people can flourish together.

Conservation projects are measured in decades rather than years, and while councillors and committees may change over time, the site will continue to need dedicated local people to help it thrive. Friends of Moss Corner will help provide that continuity, ensuring that today's investment in nature benefits future generations of Burscough residents. More volunteers are called for so if you would like to join Friends of Moss Corner or find out more about future volunteering opportunities, please keep an eye on the Town Council's website and social media channels or contact *Cllr Swin Purple* on 07344 110941 or at cllrpurple@gmail.com.

STREET SCENE ROUNDUP – Your Town Council Continues to Invest in Local Amenities

Burscough continues to benefit from a series of thoughtful improvements and upgrades designed to enhance the everyday experience of residents and visitors alike. These works reflect an ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality public spaces while preserving the character and heritage of the village.

A welcome addition to the local streetscape is the installation of **three new BTC funded benches on Chancel Way**, providing comfortable seating for those wishing to rest and enjoy their surroundings. Thanks are extended to **Crompton Developments** for their generous support and cooperation in providing the hard standings and completing the installation of these benches.

Elsewhere, existing seating has also been given attention, with the **benches on Mart Lane and outside the Post Office** undergoing upgrades. These improvements ensure that well-used amenities remain safe, attractive, and fit for purpose.

Burscough's heritage features have not been overlooked. The **clock tower at Smithy Walk** and the **Burscough Tower opposite the Hop Vine** have both been carefully re-varnished, restoring their appearance and helping to protect these valued landmarks for the future.

In support of a cleaner and more welcoming environment, **three new BTC-branded public litter bins** have been installed to replace older units. These can now be found on the **Medical Centre green**, at the bottom of the steps on the canal towpath, and at the **junction of Square Lane and the A59**, providing



convenient disposal points in key locations.

The Town Council extends its sincere thanks to the management team at **Booths Supermarket** for their generosity in arranging and fully funding the repairs to the **ground uplighters** at the **Ringtail Memorial**. Their support has ensured that this important local feature can once again be properly illuminated and appreciated, particularly during the evening hours. This contribution reflects Booths strong commitment to the local community, and their continued support is greatly valued.

Together with minor repairs to equipment at the Mere Avenue play area, these improvements reflect the Town Council's continued investment in its public realm. By enhancing accessibility, preserving the village's character, and maintaining clean, attractive public spaces, these projects help ensure that Burscough remains an enjoyable place to live, work, and visit.

Article by Cllr Derick Moss

Chairman – Street Scene Working Group.



Working Together for Better Transport

One of the greatest strengths of Burscough Town Council is our ability to bring people together to tackle the issues that matter most to our community. As a small town council, we know that meaningful progress often comes through collaboration, and over recent months we've been working hard to build partnerships that can help deliver real change.

A great example of this is the formation of a new working group involving local parish councils from across the area. Together, we are raising concerns about the increasing volume and type of traffic using the Burscough, Lathom, Newburgh and Parbold corridor as a route to the M6. We all share the view that these narrow, winding country roads were never intended to function as a strategic link road. While previous representations to Lancashire County Council Highways have not led to action, we are hopeful that a united voice from communities across the area will encourage a fresh review.

We are also strengthening our campaign to improve safety at Runnels Brow Bridge over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Working alongside Lathom Parish Council and County Councillors Rick Edwards and Adrian Owens, we continue to

press for traffic lights to be installed at this challenging bottleneck. Recent disruption caused by works at Briars Lane and Square Lane has once again highlighted how vulnerable this route can be, reinforcing the need for a long-term solution. By working together, we hope to move this important project forward.

Finally, our efforts to bring Real Time Information displays to bus stops in Burscough continue. Progress has slowed slightly while Lancashire County Council considers combining the installation of the displays with wider accessibility improvements, such as raised kerbs and enhanced boarding facilities. We welcome this joined-up approach, but we are also continuing to press for the Real Time Information project to progress as quickly as possible.

While we may not have direct responsibility for the highways network or public transport infrastructure, we remain committed to representing residents' concerns and working with our partners to make Burscough a safer, better-connected place for everyone.

Cllr Neil Pollington, Chair of Traffic and Transport working group

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A Thank You from Cllr Mike Price

I would like to say a sincere **thank you** to everyone in **New Lane Ward** who voted for me in the recent **Burscough Town Council** election.

I am grateful to have been re-elected to serve our community, which I have proudly served since being co-opted in 2022. The election saw an excellent turnout of around **50% of the electorate**, demonstrating the strong interest residents have in our town and its future.

I was delighted to receive **67% of the vote** and am truly humbled by the confidence you have placed in me.

Whether you voted for me or not, I will continue to work hard on behalf of **all residents** of New Lane Ward. I remain committed to listening to your concerns, standing up for our community, and working to make Burscough an even better place to live.

Thank you once again for your trust, encouragement and support. It is a privilege to represent New Lane Ward on Burscough Town Council, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community over the coming years. I don't stand for a political party; I just want to make a difference in our local area.

Cllr Mike Price